

Saint Louis Audubon BULLETIN

VOL. 17, No. 2

MAY-JUNE, 1948

AUDUBON AWARDS

On April 26, we celebrated the 162d birthday of John James Audubon by an Audubon Screen Tour Program, and by the presentation of Audubon Awards, made possible through the Loyalty Contributions of Audubon members. A 1948-49 series of Free Screen Tour nature programs for St. Louis school children was announced. These children's programs have been one of our most gratifying activities this year. All precedents were broken in the presentation of two silver loving cups—one to Mrs. Erle Jackson, to recognize her outstanding services to the cause of conservation—the other, a junior Audubon award, to Southwest Bird Club. Audubon Nature Camp Scholarships of \$100 each went to John C. McGuire and Rex Conyers, both of whom are noteworthy as youth leaders. Autographed Peterson "Field Guides" were awarded to: Jack Battenberg, Donald Campbell, and Edward Hick. Scholarship memberships in the Society to: Lawrence J. Burns, Jr., James Czeck, Michael Drain, George S. Graff, Jr., Helen Grogan, Ralph Hetzel, Margaret Jones, Harry Lischer, Jr., Ila Mae Mohler, Nicola Schick, Miss Jo Turbeville, Robert Wilhelm, Evelyn Wyler. Scholarship membership also went to Charles Laun, of Alton, Ill.

Winners of the Audubon wildlife photography contest, made possible by member G. Alex Hope, were: Black Tern Chick, by John Gerard, first prize; Gull Pattern, by Mrs. Wm. Scarlett, second prize; Red-tailed Hawk, by Brother Hubert Lewis, third prize.

Telford H. Work's Screen Tour, "Bits of Land Along the Coast", an exciting adventure in bird-watching, rounded out a delightful evening.

ANNUAL MEETING — MAY 17

On Monday evening, May 17, Richard Pough, a former president of our organization, will present "A Naturalist Afield", color motion picture program of unusual interest to nature lovers and bird students. Mr. Pough is a leading ornithologist and author of "Audubon Guide to Birds". Preceding his talk our annual business meeting will take place, at 7:45 p. m. Note the place: Educational Building Auditorium, Third Baptist Church, Washington Street entrance.

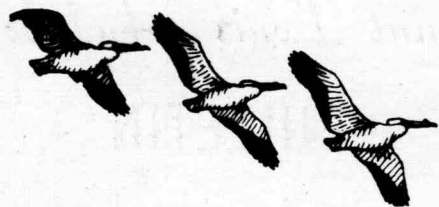
FIELD TRIP — GRAY SUMMIT

A visit to the Missouri Botanical Society's Arboretum at Gray Summit, Mo. by Audubon members promises to be a highlight of the spring season. Date: Sunday, May 23. Time: 10 a. m. Meet at the main entrance of the Arboretum. Transportation: Missouri-Pacific train leaves 8:57, arrives 9:50. Greyhound bus leaves at 9; arrives 9:45. Or come by car. Return to St. Louis late afternoon. Bring along a picnic lunch. An area rich in wild flowers and plants, as well as fine bird territory. We are indeed grateful to officials of the Missouri Botanical Society for extending their hospitality to members of the St. Louis Audubon Society.

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REMEMBER OUR MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN.

your friends will enjoy our programs and activities. A color bird print for you, and one for the new member also.



ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN

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AUDUBON WILDLIFE TOURS IN ST. LOUIS REGION

Several Audubon Wildlife Tours have already taken place—and those who participated have been enthusiastic. These two-day, personally-conducted station wagon tours go to the Pere Marquette and St. Charles regions to study bird life, plant life, and other natural features. Leader is Rev. George M. Link. Charge, not including meals and lodging, is \$10.00. Remaining dates are: May 22-23, 29-30, June 5-6, 12-13. Reservations must be mailed to: S. B. Heckler, 1207 No. 7th Street, St. Louis.

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CHECK LIST OF BIRDS

The Sterling P. Jones booklet lists all birds to be found in the St. Louis region, together with the approximate dates they may be found, during the course of the year. 25c each. Order from supply chairman Anne Bayha, 5742 Page, St. Louis.

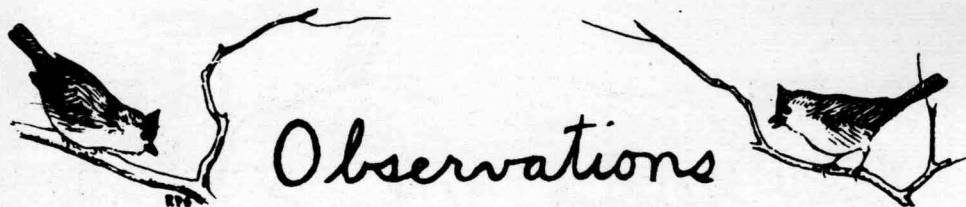
PLANS FOR NEXT SEASON

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS for 1948-49 will be an outstanding season, with seven programs of much variety both as to subject matter and locale. The speakers will be some of the country's very finest. And their color motion pictures will be "tops".

Allan Cruickshank, famous photographer, starts off with "Trails for the Millions". In late October Laurel Reynolds, wildlife hobbyist of Berkeley, Cal., who was such a hit when she showed "Fun With Birds" a few years ago, will present "With Feathers Flying". George Orians of Toledo, Ohio follows with "By Erie's Changing Shores". In January all precedents will be broken by scheduling a return engagement. Tom and Arlene Hadley's "Happy Valley" program was considered so inspiring by those who attended their Local Program in 1947 that we have asked them to present it again, this time on Screen Tours. Alfred M. Bailey's "Cajun Country" in February will rank as one of his very best. Olin Sewall Pettingill, always a favorite in St. Louis, has a brilliant new program about wildlife in the Black Hills, called "In the Hills of Gold". Alice and Harold Allen will complete the series with a unique nature program, combining sound effects, drama, and color motion pictures.

LOCAL PROGRAMS for next season are being worked on now, and final details will be announced later. But you will be interested to know what plans are being made. Outdoor events will include a weekend hostel "campout" at DeSoto, Mo.; a spring outing to Possum Trot Farm, as guests of President and Mrs. Kelley; and perhaps a repeat field trip to Gray Summit Arboretum. There will be two programs especially designed for beginning bird students; another, on warblers, will appeal to more advanced 'birders'. It will include an exhibition of original drawings of warblers, by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. We hope to have a slide-illustrated talk on familiar birds by Mr. and Mrs. George Moore; a chalk-talk on native Missouri wildlife by Mr. and Mrs. George Mauntel; and a color slide program by Charles Schwartz, on his fascinating wildlife adventures in Hawaii. Color motion picture programs by Alexander Sprunt and Father Link are in the plans. Another feature will be an exhibition of Cruickshank bird photographs at the Public Library.

All programs will be on varied days of the week; every attempt will be made to avoid conflicts with other civic events. Screen Tours will be at the Third Baptist Church auditorium; and Local Programs will be arranged at convenient places.



RECORD-BREAKING CENSUS DAY TAKES THE SPOTLIGHT

Sunday, May 2, 1948 turned out to be a record-breaking Spring Census day in every way. Total number of species, first reported as 183, was modified by late returns to an all-time high of 187. Highest previous record, 184, was made in 1946. In addition, six Audubon members broke all records for individual observations—despite windy, blustery weather. Top honors for the day went to Jack Van Benthuyzen, who rolled up a total of 133 different species of birds for the day. The others who also broke the previous records for individual lists were: Kurt Wesseling, Jr., 132; James Earl Comfort and J. Marshall Magner, 129; James F. Comfort, 128, Alberta Bolinger, 125. Bill Bremser, Jr., Eugene Wilhelm, Jr., and Wayne Short also went over the hundred mark for the day.

"Best" birds of the day were: Sprague's pipit, Montana junco, and Harris's sparrow. Runners-up included Florida gallinule, western willet, Wilson's phalarope, least bittern, and clay-colored sparrow. Mrs. Gertrude Drury, who helped to discover last year's bird-of-the-day was at it again, this year. She and Helen Henke were the first to report the Sprague's pipit, this time. Complete list of species observed within a 50 mile radius of St. Louis follows:

Common loon, pied-billed grebe, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, American egret, eastern green heron, black-crowned night heron, American bittern, least bittern, common mallard, gadwall, baldpate, blue-winged teal, shoveller, wood duck, redhead, ring-necked duck, lesser Scaup duck, American golden-eye, ruddy duck, red-breasted merganser, turkey vulture, Cooper's hawk, broad-winged hawk, marsh hawk, American osprey, duck hawk, sparrow hawk, bob-white, ring-necked pheasant, Virginia rail, sora, Florida gallinule, American coot, semipalmated plover, killdeer, American golden plover, woodcock, Wilson's snipe, upland plover, spotted sandpiper, solitary sandpiper, western willet, greater yellow-legs, lesser yellow-legs, pectoral sandpiper, least sandpiper, long-billed dowitcher, semipalmated sandpiper, Wilson's phalarope, herring gull, ring-billed gull, Forster's tern, least tern, Caspian tern, rock dove, mourning dove, little blue heron, screech owl, great horned owl, barred owl, short-eared owl, chuck-will's-widow, whip-poor-will, nighthawk, chimney swift, ruby-throated hummingbird, belted kingfisher, northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, eastern hairy woodpecker, northern downy woodpecker, eastern kingbird, northern crested flycatcher, eastern phoebe, Acadian flycatcher, alder flycatcher, least flycatcher, wood pewee, prairie horned lark, tree swallow, bank swallow, rough winged swallow, barn swallow, northern cliff swallow, purple martin, blue jay, eastern crow, black-capped chickadee, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, western house wren, Bewick's wren, Carolina

wren, prairie marsh wren, short-billed marsh wren, mockingbird, catbird, brown thrasher, eastern robin, wood thrush, olive-backed thrush, gray-cheeked thrush, willow thrush, eastern bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, American pipit, Sprague's pipit, cedar waxwing, migrant shrike, starling, white-eyed vireo, yellow-throated vireo, blue-headed vireo, red-eyed vireo, warbling vireo, black and white warbler, prothonotary warbler, worm-eating warbler, golden-winged warbler, blue-winged warbler, Tennessee warbler, Nashville warbler, northern parula warbler, yellow warbler, magnolia warbler, myrtle warbler, black-throated green warbler, cerulean warbler, Blackburnian warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, black-poll warbler, northern pine warbler, northern prairie warbler, western palm warbler, oven-bird, northern water-thrush, Grinnell's water-thrush, Louisiana water-thrush, Kentucky warbler, northern yellow-throat, yellow-breasted chat, Wilson's warbler, American redstart, English sparrow, European tree sparrow, bobolink, eastern meadowlark, eastern red-wing, orchard oriole, Baltimore oriole, bronzed grackle, cowbird, scarlet tanager, summer tanager, cardinal, rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting, dickcissel, purple finch, eastern goldfinch, red-eyed towhee, savannah sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, Leconte's sparrow, western Henslow's sparrow, vesper sparrow, lark sparrow, slate-colored junco, Montana junco, chipping sparrow, clay-colored sparrow, eastern field sparrow, Harris's sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, white-throated sparrow, Lincoln's sparrow, swamp sparrow, Mississippi song sparrow, red-tailed hawk, Bell's vireo.



Who's Who?



Here's a real "Who's Who" item: The April supplement "International Who's Who" included a biographical article on Wayne Short, board member and former president. His name is also scheduled for inclusion in "Who Knows—The Index to Authorities", under the heading Conservation of Wildlife.

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At the Boy Scout Merit Badge Show troop No. 45 received a blue ribbon for its bird study and conservation exhibit, in which the Audubon Society cooperated. Advisers were: Hubert Doering and Jack Van Benthuyssen. Audubon member W. L. Groth is Scoutmaster of the troop.

* * *

The BIG BIRD is an appropriate topic for this "Who's Who" column...WE think it was a pelican. Dr. T. E. Musselman, lecturer and writer on birds, wrote from Quincy, Ill. which is about 100 miles upriver that on the day following the St. Louis region report he spotted three brown pelicans with his binoculars. This was the fourth record for Illinois of these large birds, which do fly in somewhat plane-like fashion, with little flapping of wings. Though pelicans are far from the size of fighter planes, the "big birds" were seen here by inexperienced observers, without power glasses. As for the subsequent reports, including a bird "as big as a house"—perhaps it was indeed a Texas-sized wren!

Sincere thanks go to the faithful Leaders and Assistant Leaders of the Forest Park Bird Walks for making them the success they were again this year. It is their fine efforts which make possible these educational field excursions, now a traditional springtime event in St. Louis. Radio stations, newspapers and the Public Service Company have cooperated in announcing them to the public.

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Next season we hope to have an Audubon Speaker's Panel—to answer requests for short talks illustrated with slides or films. We have slides, and can get film. All we need are the speakers! Let's have some volunteers—Contact president Bill Kelley, or Syd Heckler,

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NEW AUDUBON NATURE CAMPS — CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS

The California Nature Camp is in Sugar Bowl Valley, high in the Sierras. The Texas Camp will be in the cool "Hill Country" deep in the heart of Texas. Anyone interested should write at once to the National Audubon Society, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York City or to our Executive Secretary for descriptive folder.
